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COSTA RICA-PANAMA ARBITRATION

DOCUMENTS

ANNEXED TO THE

ARGUMENT OF COSTA RICA

BEFORE THE

ARBITRATOR

HON. EDWARD DOUGLASS WHITE

CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES

UNDER THE

PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA CONCLUDED MARCH 17, 1910.

VOLUME I.

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1913.
THE COMMONWEALTH CO., PRINTERS,
ROANOKE, VA., U. S. A.

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located in this city, where they are examined, and afterwards a duplicate of them is sent with the statements of results of such examination to the Tribunal of Accounts of *Santa Fé*, so that the officials there may approve or criticise the results of the audit by the *Contador* thereof.

This completes what was asked for in said Chapter 8 of the *Apuntamiento* and I refer to the Document No. 6.

ANTONIO GUILL Y GONZAGA.

Doc. 178 Report of Fray Manuel de Urcullu. Missions of Talamanca in 1763.

GUATEMALA, November 3, 1763.[1]

114 Fray Manuel Urcullu, in the regular service of Our Father San Francisco, Apostolic Preacher and Guardian of this College of the Holy Propaganda of Christ Our Lord Crucified, of the city of *Guatemala*.

121 In accordance with the request and charge made to me on the 10th day of the past month by the Superior Government of this Kingdom, that, in compliance with a Royal *cédula*, I should, within the period of one month, submit a list of the friars who are living under my direction, stating their names, ages and personal qualifications, the offices or positions they hold, and also the *reducciones* (settlements of converted Indians) and existing Missions which my said College has under its care; and giving the number of the missionaries engaged therein and those that are needed in each year, in order that the propagation of the Holy Gospel and the conversion of the heathen may suffer no detriment; the locations and sites of each mission; the settlements formed; the number and character of their inhabitants; the time during which they have been established; the missionaries who have died therein; and what settlements and *reducciones* are now being undertaken for curacies and secular parishes; I have to report as follows, making an individual statement of all that is asked me. * * *

[1] Archives of the Indies at Seville. Shelf 100. Compartment 7. Bundle 1. Peralta, *ubi supra*, p. 130.

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Missions and Settlements of Converted Indians in the Mountains of Talamanca.

The first mission to the heathen, the conversion of whom was undertaken by this Apostolic College, was that of *Talamanca*, in the Province of *Costa Rica*, distant 80 leagues from the city of *Cartago* and from this city of *Guatemala*, where this College is situated, more than 500, travelling almost due East, on account of which distance the provision for the Friars who are stationed there is very hard—not alone for their requirements but for the converted Indians, both in the matter of clothing which will cover their total nakedness and tools for tilling the soil. All those mountain regions are covered with very dense forests and the country is very rough, extending from East to West about 120 leagues and from North to South 30 to 40. The country is much cut up by ravines, the Cordilleras being very high and many rivers and gulches coming down from it, the waters of which flow to the North. The climate is very hot, although upon the summits it gets very cold. It rains the greater part of the year, and the shade of the forests does not allow the soil to dry except in a very limited area. Its geographical location is 10 degrees of North latitude and 290 of longitude, at some places more and some places less, according to the course of its extent.

The products of these mountains for the use of man are plantains, in abundance; *pigibayes*,[1] guavas, yucas,[2] *camotes*,[3] sweet potatoes and a great deal of maize, which they plant throughout the entire year. For meat they have only wild boars,[4] *saginos*,[5] deer,[6] small goats,[7] and other quadrupeds. Of birds there grow in those mountains *pangiles*,[8] *pavones*,[9] mountain hens,[10] eagles and other kinds of fowls.

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[1] *Gulielma utilis.*
[2] *Manihot palmata.*
[3] *Ipomoea batatas.*
[4] *Dicotyles labiatus.*
[5] *Dicotyles torquatus.*
[6] *Cervus mexicanus.*
[7] *Cervus rufinus.*
[8] *Crax globicera.*
[9] *Penelope purpurascens.*
[10] *Odontophorus guianensis.*

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101 There are seven tribes of those heathens who are known as
131 *Talamancas;* the first is that of the same name, which embraces two others called *Cabécara* and *Bicoyta;* the second is called *Térraba;* the third, *Thórar,* on account of living upon an island of that name on the coast of the North Sea;[11] the fourth is named *Changuen;* the fifth is called *Zegua;* the sixth, *Thorasque,* and the seventh, *Guaymi.* Of these the last three are in the districts of the Kingdom of *Tierra Firme,* and the first four in this district of *Guatemala.*[12]

721 The Indians of all these tribes are generally brave and warlike;
[411] for their most common exercise is to go about with bows and spears practicing for their wars, which they are generally engaged in with each other for the purpose of enslaving the men and carrying off the women. The sport and diversion of the boys is
[868] to shoot arrows and throw spears and they thus become very
[857] skilfull in the handling of them.

All the men of these tribes go entirely naked, only the *Talamancas* 291 covering their private parts with girdles. The women all wear the girdle down to the knee, or use a blanket, which they
[286] weave from cotton or with *mastate* (a bark fibre) which they get by cutting trees.

The greatest sport of these barbarians is to paint themselves 304 black over the whole of their bodies, which they do with the
[302] greatest hardiness, allowing themselves to be scarified by the experts whom they have among them, and over the bleeding places they put *copal,*[13] which makes them swell up, and some even die by being cut in delicate parts, such as the face, neck and elsewhere. When they kill an enemy in war, they make a
304 hole with a peg of strong wood and they drill the cartilage of the
554 nose, as well as the lower lip; and when they have opened these two holes they put in each one of them a little bone like a cigar-

[11] The island of *Tójar* or Island of *Colón.*

[12] The enumeration which Padre Urcullu made was not strictly correct,
[114] inasmuch as the *Zeguas, Thorasques* or *Dorasques* and *Guaymies* lived wholly or in part, like the *Guaymies,* in the territory of *Costa Rica;* but it will be noted that besides, according to his statement, the Island of *Colón,* and consequently the *Bay of Almirante* belonged to *Costa Rica.* M. M. P.

[13] *Protium copal.*

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ette.. These two bones are for the first death, and the others they get afterwards they keep on drilling the lower lip, into which they put two or more bones. They also bore the ears roundabout and in the holes they stick straws, like a large span set round with colored feathers; and all this is to show off their courage and excite fear.

The strangest thing in the mountain region of *Talamanca* is that the Indians of the *Zegua* tribe, who are upon the islands and shores of the North Sea, all or nearly all of them have a tail more than a third of a yard long; and doubtless on account of this monstrosity they do not mingle with the other tribes, but are only to be met with on the Island of *Thóxar*, whither the other tribes go to trade for cacao, the yield of which is there very good in quality and abundant. This island is very fertile and abounds in fruit, such as plantains and pineapples, etc., but as I am informed it is already deserted on account of the repeated invasions which have been made by the *Zambos* and *Mosquitos* in league with the English, who carry away the people to sell the men in *Jamaica* and making use of the women. The few that are left have withdrawn into the hills, where they have their settlements or *palenques*. * * *

As regards the number of the gentile Indians, living among those mountain regions of *Talamanca*, all that is known is that they are very numerous, as shown by the parts which have been subjected and the accounts of the Indians themselves, covering the lands they occupy.

As regards the work that has been done in those Missions it is to be noted that those tribes, if not all at least the three that are embraced under the name of *Thalamancas*, were conquered and paid their tribute generally in little nuggets of gold, of which there are records in the archives of the said city of *Cartago*. And in this College there is a copy of a document, from which it appears that in that province there was a city of Spaniards by the name of *"Santiago de Thalamanca,"* with its fort of *San Ildefonso*, but that the Indians rebelled and killed a great many people and they burned the city and destroyed everything. The city was founded on what they called the plains of *Thalamanca*, on the

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175 648 level lands of the great river *Estrella*,[14] where it joins the river *Coén*,[15] which comes down from *Cabécora*, and the *Arori*, which comes down from *Vicvite*.

Its destruction, according to the copy referred to, was in the 175 month of August of the tenth year of the last century, and at the 648 end of it. In the year 1680, the conquest and subjection of the 797 heathen Indians of that province was undertaken by the venerable servant of God, the Padre Fr. Antonio Margil de Jesús, founder of this College, who had good results in his apostolic work, for in a few years he succeeded in teaching and baptizing so great a number of Indians that they already made up sixteen settlements. But at the end of 1709, those barbarous tribes rebelled, together with those who were taught, baptized and settled, and they killed two out of the three friars who were there. There were Fray Pablo de Rebullida and Fray Antonio de Zamora, and nine or ten of the soldiers who were in the garrison, together with a woman and a boy, burning the churches and profaning the sacred vessels and the furniture thereof. Yet by the orders and the measures taken by the Tribunal of the Royal Audiencia or Captaincy-General of this Kingdom, assisted by the good conduct of the Governor of the Province of *Costa Rica*, who at that time was Don Lorenzo de la Granda Balbín, and the military officers who accompanied him, and the Rev. Padre Fray Antonio de Andrade, a disciple of this College, who was saved out of that insurrection, they were successful in penetrating into the mountains and cap-

[114] [14] Among the papers relating to the foundation of the city of *Santiago de Talamanca* it appears that it was founded upon the banks of the *Tarire*, eight leagues from its mouth. Fray Manuel Urcullu is not mistaken as regards the site, but he falls into the same error already noted in the other reports of the missionaries, of calling the *Tarire*, *Tiliri* or *Sixaola*, the *Estrella* river. The latter is the one now designated the *Chánguene* on some maps, *Changuinola* upon others and, finally, the *Tilorio* river. The latter is the real *Estrella* river, discovered and made known in 1564, by Juan Vázquez de Coronado. Its course, instead of running towards the coast of the Sea of the Antilles, as it does today, turned at nine and a half degrees of North latitude and continued towards the East in a line almost parallel to the said coast, until it emptied into the Bay of *Almirante*. The ancient channel of the river is well known by explorers, and in particular by Don José María Figueroa, who traced it upon the map of Costa Rica. Note by M. M. de Peralta.

[15] The river *Coén* is a tributary of the river *Tarire*.

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turing fifteen hundred Indians who had risen, with their *cacique*, and justice was done to the latter as well as to the others, and the holy vessels and the furnishings were recovered. As the rebels continued more insolent and were bound together in their disobedience and apostasy, the zeal of the said Reverend Padre Andrade and of the other friars who were under him could not re-establish this conquest and subjection; but now, extricated from the difficult and even impossible situation in which the enterprise then was, it should be restored to this College.

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